THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ); (a) and (b) The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has informed that they have not submitted any proposal for development of Linganamakki Dam in Shimoga District.

Depletion of Ground Water

1632. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ground water level is depleting in a!! geographical regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to consider rain water harvesting as a potential method to replenish the water tables; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the years 1995—2004, indicates decline in ground water levels in some parts of various States/Union Territories in the country.

(b) As per the latest assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the CGWB and the States Ground Water Organizations, out of 5723 replenishable ground water resource assessment units (block/ mandal/taluka), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water development is more than 100% and significant decline in long term trend of water level has been observed in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both), 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water development is more than 90% and upto 100% and significant decline is observed in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon) and 550 units are "semi-critical' (where stage of ground water development is between 70% and 100% and significant decline in long term water level trend has been recorded in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon). In the remaining units, which mostly fall under 'safe' category, no significant fall in ground water levels has been recorded.

(c) and (d) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable steps for replenishing water table in their respective States. However, the impact assessment studies carried out by the CGWB on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures constructed during the IX Plan in 27 States across the country have shown that these structures have helped in raising the water levels. The Union Government have also taken following steps in this regard:—

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) An 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council" has been constituted by the Government in the Ministry of Water Resources with an objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge including rain water harvesting among all stakeholders and its adoption.

(iv) Ministry of Water Resources have circulated a revised Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to the States/Union Territories in 2005, which has a separate chapter on rain water harvesting for Ground Water Recharge. The Bill provides for issuance of directions by the State Ground Water Authority to the concerned departments of the State/UT Government to include rain water harvesting in all developmental schemes falling under areas notified by the Authority. The Bill also provides for imposition of stipulated conditions by the Municipal Corporations or other local authorities for providing roof top rain water harvesting structures in building plan in an area of 100 sq.m. or more, while according approval for construction.

(v) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) With a view to bring rain water harvesting schemes closer to common people, films on rain water harvesting in urban areas and rural areas have been produced for wide publicity among masses. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organized throughout the country involving Central/ State Governments/Non-Government Organizations/Voluntary Organizations/Resident Welfare Associations/Educational Institutions/Industries and Individuals.

(viii) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has also been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.

(ix) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(x) An activity namely, "Demonstration of Rain Water Harvesting from Roof Tops and two toilets in Government schools in rural areas in various States through Community Based Organizations

(CBOs)" was taken up during Fresh Water Year, 2003-04. Based on its success, more girls rural Government schools have been covered with roof top rain water harvesting projects during 2005—07.

(xi) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented in 13 identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs. 12 crores during the year 2006-07.

(xii) The Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development is implementing rain water harvesting by construction of various types of structures under their Area Development Programmes.

(xiii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas being implement in 28 States and 2 Union Territories, Soil and Water Conservation for treatment of Catchment areas in 27 States and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area in all the states of North-eastern region being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture have rain water harvesting as one of the components.

Survey by Shunglu Committee on Sardar Sarovar Dam Height

1635. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the reasons for the Shunglu Committee has been asked to survey Madhya Pradesh barring Gujarat and Maharashtra when both the States have villages that are affected by the Sardar Sarovar Dam, that have already undergone submergence and displacement and will also be affected by arise in dam height to 121.92 metres?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): The Narmada Control Authority gave permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m in the 76th Emergency meeting held on 8.3.2006 after following the procedure laid down in the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award and Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 18th October, 2000 and 15th March, 2005.